

WO-324  
Henry's Hotel  
Ocean City  
Private

c. 1895

Henry's Hotel, formerly known as "Henry's Colored Hotel," is a prominent historic site in Ocean City. Reported to have been erected during the last decade of the nineteenth century, the three-story wood shingled structure is one of the oldest hotels in the city. Not only is the well-preserved frame hotel one of the earliest surviving buildings downtown, but it is the last hotel that served black visitors to the ocean resort during the early to mid twentieth century when access to the beach was severely restricted from the black population. Reserved periods, known as "Colored Excursion Days," were limited to days after the main summer season had passed.

Earliest ownership of Henry's Hotel is traced to Granville Stokes, a prominent Worcester County landowner, who purchased this corner lot in July 1891 from Joshua R. and Anna Farlow. The 1891 transfer states that J. R. Farlow bought the lot from the heirs of Stephen Taber, the original owner of much of present-day Ocean City.

During the early twentieth century the property was held by Thomas L. Savage for close to ten years until Charles T. and Louisa Henry bought the hotel in December 1926. After Charles T. Henry died in 1942, the hotel was held by his wife and then son, Charles Wesley Henry.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-324

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic HENRY'S HOTEL

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number SW Corner of South Division and Baltimore Ave. not for publication

city, town Ocean City vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Pearl Bonner

street & number Henry's Hotel telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code MD 21842

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 387

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 413

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WO-324

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Henry's Hotel is a three-story, ell-shaped frame building that stands on the southwest corner of South Division Street and Baltimore Avenue in Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The wood shingled frame hotel faces north with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built during the last decade of the nineteenth century, the three-story, five-bay frame hotel is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and the entire building is sheathed with wood shingles. The medium pitched gable roof carries a layer of asbestos shingles. Attached to the rectangular front block is a two-story, three-bay rear wing. Stretching across two sides of the hotel is a turned post porch. A picket fence, rare in Ocean City, still encloses part of the yard.

The north (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with an uneven fenestration of doors and a combination six-over-six and two-over-two sash windows. Sheltering the first floor is the turned post porch with handrails between the pairs of posts. The west end of the porch is enclosed. The second floor is marked by three evenly spaced windows, and the third floor is pierced by five two-over-two sash. The eaves are slightly extended.

Defining the west gable end is a three-bay fenestration with two-over-two sash windows lighting each floor. A small two-over-two sash illuminates the attic. The east gable end is similarly arranged with the addition of a side entrance off the porch.

The south side of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, three-bay wing which is detailed in the same manner as the main block. A wooden fire-escape is attached to the south side of the wing.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-324

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Henry's Hotel, formerly known as "Henry's Colored Hotel," is a prominent historic site in Ocean City. Reported to have been erected during the last decade of the nineteenth century, the three-story wood shingled structure is one of the oldest hotels in the city. Not only is the well-preserved shingled frame hotel one of the earliest surviving buildings downtown, but it is the last hotel that served black visitors to the ocean resort ~~period~~ during the early to mid twentieth century when access to the beach was severely restricted from the black population. Reserved periods, known as "Colored Excursion Days," were limited to days after the main summer season had passed.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Earliest ownership of Henry's Hotel is traced to Granville Stokes, a prominent Worcester County landowner, who purchased this corner lot in July 1891 from Joshua R. and Anna Farlow.(FHP 1/577) The 1891 transfer states that ~~the~~ J. R. Farlow bought the lot from the heirs of Stephen Taber, the original owner of much of present-day Ocean City.

During the early twentieth century the property was held by Thomas L. Savage for close to ten years until Charles T. and Louisa Henry bought the hotel in December 1926.(SMC 56/166) After Charles T. Henry died in 1942 the hotel was held by his wife and then son, Charles Wesley Henry.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. W0-324

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Diagram B shows three empty coordinate axes. The first axis is labeled 'Zone' and has two tick marks. The second axis is labeled 'Easting' and has five tick marks. The third axis is labeled 'Northing' and has five tick marks.

**c**

**D**



E 

F 

**G** 

[illegible]

## Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## **11. Form Prepared By**

<b><u>name/title</u></b>	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
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<u>organization</u>	Worcester County	<u>date</u>	3/13/90
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**street & number** Worcester County Courthouse **telephone** 301-632-1194

<b>city or town</b>	Snow Hill	<b>state</b>	MD	21863
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Henry's Hotel

MHT Inventory Number: W0-324

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1870 - 1930

STANDING STRUCTURE

1. GUEST HOUSE OR HOTEL

W0-324  
HENRY'S HOTEL  
South Divison and Baltimore Ave.  
Ocean City, Maryland  
Chain of title

387/413 William H. Scott, trustee  
Duncan Bros. Realty Co.  
Mitchell W. Bonnevill, contract purchaser

to

3/2/1973 Pearl Bonner  
two mortgages from Joseph Weatherly  
and Effie Weatherly his wife, 6/3/1953  
EWR 56/477  
and Charles W. Henry, 6/3/1953  
EWR 56/558

EWR 60/25 Charles Wesley Henry  
Mary H. Henry, his wife

to

4/20/1953 Joseph Weatherly

SMC 56/166 Thomas L. Savage and Ada E., his wife

to

12/27/1926 Charles T. Henry and Louisa his wife  
Charles T. Henry departed this life  
in 1942 leaving wife sole owner of  
all that lot and improvements

ODC 30/199 James W. Lynch and Mary E. Lynch

to

12/26/1917 Thomas L. Savage  
that lot which was conveyed to James W.  
Lynch by Granville Stokes, and being the  
same lot conveyed to Granville Stokes by

WO-324  
HENRY'S HOTEL  
Ocean City, Maryland  
Chain of title

Page 2

Joshua R. Farlow by deed dated  
7/13/1891, FHP 1/577

FHP 1/577

Joshua R. Farlow and Anna his wife

to

7/11/1891

Granville Stokes

all that "lot" which was conveyed to  
J. R. Farlow by executors of Stephen  
Taber



